

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4 and 5 are presented for examination. Claim 1 is amended. Claims 2 and 3 are cancelled.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. 4,780,357 to Otouma et al. and U.S. Pat. 5,771,054 to Dudek et al., and further in view of U.S. Pat. 5,145,518 to Winnek et al. and U.S. Pat. 4,597,794 to Ohta et al.

Claim 3 was objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner, and have incorporated all the limitations of claim 3 and intervening claim 2 into their base claim 1. Claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 4 and 5 are likewise considered to be in condition for allowance based at least on the allowability of their base claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 19, 2004